



For Immediate Release

Board of Probation and Parole Director Retires; Replacement Named

Ms. Donna Blackburn, Executive Director of the Board of Probation and Parole since 1995 and a 34-year employee of state government is retiring from state government effective March 31, 2005. Ms. Blackburn's years with state government include tenures with The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, The Department of Safety, Governor Alexander's Office, Board of Probation and Parole Board Member, POST Commission, and her present leadership position with the Board. As stated by Chairman of the Board of Probation and Parole, Mr. Charles Traughber, "Ms. Blackburn has led this agency with integrity, professionalism and dedication. She has earned great respect among all who have worked with her and she will be sorely missed. The Board wishes her well during her "well earned" retirement and sincerely thank her for all that she has done for and meant to the Board of Probation and Parole."

Selected by the Board to replace Ms. Blackburn as Executive Director is Mr. Robert C. "Bo" Irvin. Mr. Irvin is a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and has 23 years of government professional work. Mr. Irvin's work experience includes juvenile probation fieldwork with the Hamilton County and Nashville Juvenile Courts. From June 1996 to December 2002, Mr. Irvin served as the Deputy Commissioner for the Tennessee Department of Children's Services. He began his tenure with the Board of Probation and Parole in 2003 as Administrator and held that position until his appointment as Executive Director. As stated by Chairman Traughber, "The Board is pleased in being able to promote Mr. Irvin into the Executive Director's position and we feel confident that he will lead this agency in a very effective and productive manner."

The Board of Probation and Parole is an independent State Commission governed by a seven member Board, all appointed by the Governor. The Board is charged with the responsibility for deciding which felony offenders will be granted parole and released from incarceration to community-based supervision. Along with the supervision of those granted parole, the Board is also responsible for supervising felony offenders who are placed on probation by Criminal Courts. The Board is responsible for the supervision of over 46,800 offenders in Tennessee (8,133 parolees; 38,684 probationers).

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